

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR STRIPED BASS — COMMERCIAL DECLARATION PERIOD

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to shift the commercial striped bass declaration period from August 1 – September 30 to July 15 – September 15.

Currently individuals must declare their intent to fish in either the striped bass common pool or striped bass individual transferrable quota (ITQ) fishery between August 1 and September 30 of each year. In addition, any transfers of quota among watermen must occur during this same timeframe. DNR must have final declarations and transfers completed before it can calculate each individual's quota for the coming year and order the appropriate number of tags for each fishery participant. The current declaration period does not allow sufficient time to process all declarations and transfers and submit the tag order to the vendor. The additional two weeks provided by this regulatory change will help ensure timely annual tag delivery to the watermen. The declaration period would not be shortened; rather it would be shifted two weeks earlier to July 15 through September 15, as opposed to August 1 through September 30.